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# Food Stamp Facts..



## Allotments and Purchase Requirements



The Food Stamp Program enables low-income households to buy more food of greater variety to improve their diets. To purchase food stamps, participants pay a sum of money based on their family size and net monthly income. They then receive food stamps of a larger value than the amount paid which they can spend like money at authorized food stores.

To qualify for food stamps, households must meet certain nationwide eligibility standards. Also, except in special circumstances, food stamp households must be able to prepare meals. When certified, participants receive an allotment of coupons based on the number of people in the household and pay for this allotment according to the net total income of the household. The amount paid is determined according to the tables given in this fact sheet. Following are some questions and answers about coupon allotments and purchase requirements.

**1. WHAT IS THE PURCHASE REQUIREMENT?** The amount a household pays for its food stamps is called the purchase requirement. The amount increases as the household income increases, but in no case will the purchase requirement be more than 30 percent of the household's net income or take-home pay.

**2. HOW IS THE ALLOTMENT DETERMINED?** The total amount of coupons an eligible household will receive will depend upon the size of the household.

**3. WHAT ARE BONUS FOOD STAMPS?** "Bonus" or "free" coupons are the difference between the purchase requirements and the total coupon allotment. For example, if a household paid \$10 for \$90 worth of coupons, the bonus would be \$80 worth of coupons: See table on page 2.

**4. DOES A HOUSEHOLD HAVE TO BUY ALL THE STAMPS AT ONE TIME?** A household can buy stamps twice a month or, in some States, more often. In most States, if a household receives a welfare payment, the cost of the total coupon allotment can be deducted from the check.

**5. CAN A HOUSEHOLD BUY LESS THAN THE TOTAL ALLOTMENT?** A household is allowed to purchase three-quarters, one-half, or one-quarter of the total allotment unless the household has chosen to have the purchase requirement deducted from the welfare payment. In that case, the household must buy the total allotment.

**6. CAN A HOUSEHOLD GO BACK AND BUY THE REST OF THE ALLOTMENT LATER?** Once the household buys less than the total allotment in any one month, it will not be able to pick up the balance at a later date. However, the full allotment may be purchased the following month.

**FOR FULL AND COMPLETE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FOOD STAMP CERTIFICATION OR WELFARE OFFICE**

The Food Stamp Facts series include:

- Allotments and Purchase Requirements (FNS-70)
- Household Income Deductions (FNS-74)
- Work Registration (FNS-71)
- Meals-On-Wheels (FNS-75)
- Eligibility Requirements (FNS-72)
- Recipient Responsibility (FNS-76)
- Fair Hearing (FNS-73)
- Disaster Situations (FNS-99)



**THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM**  
**MONTHLY COUPON ALLOTMENTS AND PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS**  
**48 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

| Number in Household:      | 1                             | 2    | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Monthly allotment:        | \$48                          | \$90 | \$128 | \$162 | \$192 | \$222 | \$250 | \$278 |
| Monthly Net Income        | Monthly Purchase Requirement: |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| \$ 0 - \$ 19.99 . . . . . | \$ 0                          | \$ 0 | \$ 0  | \$ 0  | \$ 0  | \$ 0  | \$ 0  | \$ 0  |
| 20 - 29.99 . . . . .      | 1                             | 1    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| 30 - 39.99 . . . . .      | 4                             | 4    | 4     | 4     | 5     | 5     | 5     | 5     |
| 40 - 49.99 . . . . .      | 6                             | 7    | 7     | 7     | 8     | 8     | 8     | 8     |
| 50 - 59.99 . . . . .      | 8                             | 10   | 10    | 10    | 11    | 11    | 12    | 12    |
| 60 - 69.99 . . . . .      | 10                            | 12   | 13    | 13    | 14    | 14    | 15    | 16    |
| 70 - 79.99 . . . . .      | 12                            | 15   | 16    | 16    | 17    | 17    | 18    | 19    |
| 80 - 89.99 . . . . .      | 14                            | 18   | 19    | 19    | 20    | 21    | 21    | 22    |
| 90 - 99.99 . . . . .      | 16                            | 21   | 21    | 22    | 23    | 24    | 25    | 26    |
| 100 - 109.99 . . . . .    | 18                            | 23   | 24    | 25    | 26    | 27    | 28    | 29    |
| 110 - 119.99 . . . . .    | 21                            | 26   | 27    | 28    | 29    | 31    | 32    | 33    |
| 120 - 129.99 . . . . .    | 24                            | 29   | 30    | 31    | 33    | 34    | 35    | 36    |
| 130 - 139.99 . . . . .    | 27                            | 32   | 33    | 34    | 36    | 37    | 38    | 39    |
| 140 - 149.99 . . . . .    | 30                            | 35   | 36    | 37    | 39    | 40    | 41    | 42    |
| 150 - 169.99 . . . . .    | 33                            | 38   | 40    | 41    | 42    | 43    | 44    | 45    |
| 170 - 189.99 . . . . .    | 36                            | 44   | 46    | 47    | 48    | 49    | 50    | 51    |
| 190 - 209.99 . . . . .    | 36                            | 50   | 52    | 53    | 54    | 55    | 56    | 57    |
| 210 - 229.99 . . . . .    | 38                            | 56   | 58    | 59    | 60    | 61    | 62    | 63    |
| 230 - 249.99 . . . . .    |                               | 62   | 64    | 65    | 66    | 67    | 68    | 69    |
| 250 - 269.99 . . . . .    |                               | 68   | 70    | 71    | 72    | 73    | 74    | 75    |
| 270 - 289.99 . . . . .    |                               | 70   | 76    | 77    | 78    | 79    | 80    | 81    |
| 290 - 309.99 . . . . .    |                               | 70   | 82    | 83    | 84    | 85    | 86    | 87    |
| 310 - 329.99 . . . . .    |                               |      | 88    | 89    | 90    | 91    | 92    | 93    |
| 330 - 359.99 . . . . .    |                               |      | 94    | 95    | 96    | 97    | 98    | 99    |
| 360 - 389.99 . . . . .    |                               |      | 100   | 104   | 105   | 106   | 107   | 108   |
| 390 - 419.99 . . . . .    |                               |      | 109   | 113   | 114   | 115   | 116   | 117   |
| 420 - 449.99 . . . . .    |                               |      | 110   | 122   | 123   | 124   | 125   | 126   |
| 450 - 479.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       | 131   | 132   | 133   | 134   | 135   |
| 480 - 509.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       | 138   | 141   | 142   | 143   | 144   |
| 510 - 539.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       | 138   | 150   | 151   | 152   | 153   |
| 540 - 569.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       | 138   | 159   | 160   | 161   | 162   |
| 570 - 599.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       |       | 164   | 169   | 170   | 171   |
| 600 - 629.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       |       | 164   | 178   | 179   | 180   |
| 630 - 659.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       |       | 164   | 187   | 188   | 189   |
| 660 - 689.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       |       |       | 190   | 197   | 198   |
| 690 - 719.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       |       |       | 190   | 206   | 207   |
| 720 - 749.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       |       |       | 190   | 214   | 216   |
| 750 - 779.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       |       |       |       | 214   | 225   |
| 780 - 809.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       |       |       |       | 214   | 234   |
| 810 - 839.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       |       |       |       | 214   | 238   |
| 840 - 869.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       |       |       |       |       | 238   |
| 870 - 899.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       |       |       |       |       | 238   |
| 900 - 929.99 . . . . .    |                               |      |       |       |       |       |       | 238   |

For each person in excess of eight, add \$22 to the monthly coupon allotment for an eight-person household.

Any food stamp participant may request a fair hearing if he feels a decision regarding his participating has been unfair. Each household should be informed of its right to a fair hearing at the time of application. The standards for participation in the Food Stamp Program are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, sex, religious creed, national origin, or political beliefs.